



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 21, 2020

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## Halloween Safety and COVID-19

*No tricks, just fun and treats this Halloween*

One of the most exciting and fun holidays for children is Halloween; however, this year it requires a bit more planning with COVID-19 and it can still be safe and fun for them! According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), traditional trick or treating, where children come to the door, a resident opens the door and hands out candy to each child, is a high-risk activity when COVID-19 is in the community.

If you have COVID-19, or think you may or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should **not** participate in in-person Halloween activities and should **not** give out candy to trick-or-treaters.

**Lower risk activities** - These lower risk activities can be safe alternatives:

- Carving or decorating pumpkins with members of your household and displaying them
- Carving or decorating pumpkins outside, at a safe distance, with neighbors or friends
- Decorating your house, apartment, or living space
- Doing a Halloween scavenger hunt where children are given lists of Halloween-themed things to look for while they walk outdoors from house to house admiring Halloween decorations at a distance
- Having a virtual Halloween costume contest or watching a Halloween movie night with people you live with

### Moderate risk activities

- Participating in one-way trick-or-treating where individually wrapped goodie bags are lined up for families to grab and go while continuing to social distance (such as at the end of a driveway or at the edge of a yard)
  - If you are preparing goodie bags, [wash your hands](#) with soap and water for at least 20 second before and after preparing the bags.
- Having a small group, outdoor, open-air costume parade where people are distanced more than 6 feet apart
  - Do not wear a costume mask over a protective cloth mask because it can be dangerous if the costume mask makes it hard to breathe.

### Higher risk activities -

- Participating in traditional trick-or-treating where treats are directly handed to children who go door to door
- Having trunk-or-treat where treats are handed out from trunks of cars lined up in large parking lots
- Attending crowded costume parties held indoors
- Going to an indoor haunted house where people may be crowded together and screaming
- Using [alcohol or drugs](#), which can cloud judgement and increase risky behaviors

For additional COVID-19 information, please visit [www.hcphtx.org](http://www.hcphtx.org) or [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

*HCPH is the local public health agency for the Harris County, Texas jurisdiction. It provides a wide variety of public health activities and services aimed at improving the health and well-being of the Harris County community.*

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